

St Clair School Mihi Whakatau

On Tuesday, February 4, we would like to welcome you and your family to our St Clair School community and invite you to stay on after 9 o'clock for a Mihi Whakatau - St Clair School welcome. At the start of each term we welcome all new members of our school community to our school via a mihi whakatau. A mihi whakatau is a less formal greeting than a powhiri, and is a way for the tangata whenua (local people) to welcome the manuhiri (visitors or new people) to our place.

We hold this in Te Manawanui just outside room 1 on the first morning of each term. Your child will come and join you after their class has done their roll call, or alternatively you could stay with your child in their class, and then together come to the mihi whakatau.

To start the mihi whakatau, our principal, Jen Rodgers, speaks about our school, and gives a general welcome to all of our newcomers (children and staff). The school then sings our school waiata-a-ringa (action song) together. We then give all of the manuhiri the opportunity to introduce themselves to us (you might like to speak on behalf of your child if they are not comfortable speaking in front of so many people - an introduction of their name and the class they are going into is absolutely fine), and then the manuhiri sing together. We suggest you might like to sing [Tutira Mai Nga Iwi](#) as it is a well known song, (the tangata whenua will sing with you if you need support ;-)

After this all of the children and staff go back to classes to share kai (a piece of fruit) before starting the school day. Whānau and families are welcome to come into the staffroom for a cup of tea together as well.

If your child started school during the previous term, they will be welcomed at this mihi whakatau too. If you have any questions about the mihi whakatau, please contact your child's class teacher.

We hope you can join us for this special occasion.